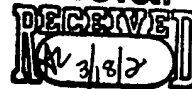


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for Examiner

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Deliver to: Examiner K. Kim GAU 2183 (703) 746-7239
Firm Name: c/o Commissioner for Patents
Fax Number: (703) 306-5404 - out of service Telephone No.: _____
From: John P. Ward, x237
Date: 3/15/02 Time: 1:50 p.m.
Operator: Judy Steinkraus x280 Matter: 42390.P2003DC 09/857,448
Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

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Amendment. Thank you and best regards.

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and 24 to more particularly point out the invention and place them in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Claims 24-33, as amended.

The Examiner also states that language in Claim 34 is inconsistent with the limitations of Claim 15. Claim 34 is cancelled herewith, and Claims 35 and 37 have been amended to depend from Claim 15 and place them in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of Claims 35-38, as amended.

Applicants believe that Claims 15-18, Claims 24-33 and Claims 35-38 are presently in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

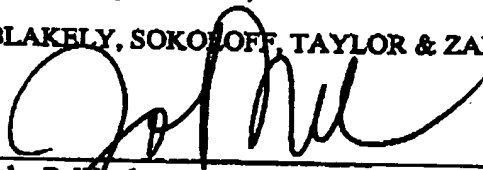
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present claims for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN



John P. Ward
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Date: February 21, 2002

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